



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. XIV

AUGUST, 1914

No. 11

---

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### THE EFFECT OF STATE REGISTRATION UPON TRAINING SCHOOLS

Some few years ago there was a universal complaint from practically all hospitals of a dearth of satisfactory applicants for their training schools. By degrees the complaints from the schools of higher grade, which were rapidly developing their facilities for better instruction; giving closer attention to living conditions, to food, recreation and shorter hours of work in the wards, began noticeably to decrease.

At the present time we are told that those hospitals that are really conducting their nursing departments on a school basis, with living conditions as they should be and teaching facilities that are reasonably adequate, have a supply of probationers in sufficient numbers to do their work properly and of an educational status that meets the requirements of State Registration. This applies to the schools of both large and small hospitals. In a group of small cities, within a radius of 25 or 50 miles of each other, we will find one school properly equipped, with all the applicants necessary, and another school connected with a hospital in an equally advantageous location, unable to secure pupils enough even to carry on the daily work of the hospital, much less to equip a new department if such is established, and invariably, in this latter class of institution we find the old conditions prevailing, of unattractive housing, poor food, long hours, and the educational facilities practically nil. We venture to say that the responsibility for the lack of development of this last type of school is largely due to the woman at the head of it, else why is her neighbor in an adjoining town able to obtain all that she needs for the development of her school to meet the requirement, while she, perhaps, in a richer locality and a more highly intelligent community, fails to bring her school up to the proper standard.

We have yet to meet a board of managers of a general hospital which refuses absolutely to respond to requests from their superintendent, put intelligently before them, for such improvements as tend to the better comfort of the patients and the more thorough training of the nurses.

True, too much stress is laid upon the importance of extensive and showy buildings and costly equipment for the operating room, but after these things have been obtained, it is only a step, when the educational importance of the hospital is properly presented to the managers, to obtain paid lecturers, an additional instructor, a night superintendent and an increase of the working force by the few members necessary to shorten the working day. It adds little to the cost of maintenance to make the food attractive, and old residence buildings can often be made sanitary and homelike by the installation of modern plumbing, the free use of paint, a little good furniture and a few rugs and simple draperies.

We believe nursing was never more popular with the young women of the country than at the present day but the time has passed when our girls will enter blindly the nearest hospital without knowing what they are to receive in return for their services. These same young women are awake to the fact that there are laws governing nurses in every state; that, at the end of their period of training, they must pass a state examination, and those schools which are not equipping their pupils for such examinations are becoming widely known among intelligent applicants.

This is the result which state registration is supposed to have upon training schools. While taken as a whole, standards are still far from ideal, the distinction between the good school and the poor one, is already pronounced. The board of managers of a general hospital is in business to serve the public. The whole trend of public opinion is back of them in every measure which they put forth for greater efficiency in the care of the sick. A good training school is a necessary aid in securing this efficiency. State registration is slowly educating the public to the idea that one of the functions of the hospital is to provide a school for the higher education of physicians and the training of nurses. The boards of managers of such hospitals as are not too greatly dominated by politics can usually be prevailed upon to make the proper provision for the development of training schools for nurses which will meet the registration requirements. Of course there is the occasional exception where we may find an able woman laboring under hopeless conditions and we would remind that woman that the demand for competent administrators and teachers in the nursing field is far beyond the supply and that she is wasting her life and efforts in such surroundings.

NEW YORK STATE INCREASES MEMBERSHIP OF NURSES' BOARD  
OF COUNSELLORS

The New York Board of Regents has added five members to the Nurse Board of Counsellors. This is in accord with the suggestion made by Dr. Finley, Commissioner of Education, mention of which was made in a recent issue of this JOURNAL.

It will be remembered that in the organization of the education department of New York State, each department of education, in addition to its board of examiners, is represented by what is known as a Board of Counsellors. The duties of this board are purely advisory on educational matters. The members serve gratuitously, the state paying the necessary traveling expenses only.

The first Nurse Board was composed of four nurses and one physician. For several years the entire membership has been of nurses. With this increase in the number, there is now represented the New York State Medical Society, through its president; trustees of hospitals and the Board of Health of New York State and City. The personnel of the Council as it now stands is Annie W. Goodrich, late inspector of training schools under the State Education Department; Clara B. Noyes, superintendent of the training school of Bellevue and the allied hospitals; Emma J. Jones, assistant superintendent of the Rochester General Hospital; Mrs. M. E. Bell, superintendent of nurses of the Rochester State Hospital; Ida L. Root, formerly superintendent of the Nathan Lattauer of Gloversville, N. Y.; Dr. Josephine Baker, of the New York City Board of Health; Dr. Lindsay Williams of the New York State Board of Health; Hon. H. G. Danforth, president of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester General Hospital; Mr. George L. Reives, president of the Board of Trustees of the New York Hospital, New York City; the president of the New York State Medical Association, this year Dr. Wende of Buffalo; Amy M. Hilliard, ex-officio, inspector of training schools under the education department at Albany.

This board, as enlarged, would seem to represent the hospital, medical, and nursing interests of New York State, those in favor of the advance movement and those opposed to it. It gives ample representation to the medical profession and to managers of general hospitals. The deliberation of this group of men and women will certainly give safe and sane counsel to those state officials who are responsible for the administration of the Nurse Practice Act. We predict a more cordial coöperation for the advancement of nursing under this broader leadership.

## CENTRALIZING WORK OF STATE REGISTRATION

The committee on a central bureau for registration, appointed at the St. Louis meeting, of which Mary C. Wheeler, Superintendent of the Illinois Training School, is chairman, is already actively at work in verifying the lists of all the accredited schools given out by the boards of nurses' examiners of the different states. These lists will be printed in a very short time and will be ready for sale. The first edition will cover over 700 schools. The cost of printing will be considerable and the charge for a single pamphlet in the neighborhood of 50 cents. It is expected that this charge will cover the cost of printing and postage, with the necessary correspondence, and if there should be any margin it will be used in gathering together material for the San Francisco meeting.

This committee has also prepared a list of questions which it suggests will be the foundation for the work of the state inspectors, so that we may gradually reach a uniform method of training school records, over the whole country. The work mapped out by this committee promises to be tremendously helpful to the boards of examiners in all states and will tend to establish greater uniformity in the schools as well as for the inspections.

Miss Wheeler and her committee should have most prompt and cordial coöperation from the workers along these lines in every state. In this particular phase of nursing development, little can be accomplished by boards which work alone. The members of these boards should keep themselves not only in very close touch with the teaching body of their states and with the organization work throughout their states, but with all the different national affiliations. A board working alone can hope to accomplish no more than an individual working alone, when we consider the network of affiliation and coöperation which is necessary for progress in any department of the world's work.

## PROCEDURE OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It has been said that no class of magazine readers change their addresses so often as nurses.

In June, 369 of our regular subscribers asked to have their addresses changed, a somewhat larger number than usual. A large number came in after the 15th, too late for the change to be made for the July issue.

We are more than ready to accommodate our subscribers in every way possible but we think it might save some confusion and criticism if something of the detail involved in changes of address were more clearly understood. It is something more than adding a name to a list. Every change of address has to be made first in the Rochester office. If the

request has been sent to the publishers in Baltimore, it has to be re-mailed to Rochester for the first step in the process. The subscription card in the Rochester file, arranged alphabetically by state, has first to be looked up by a clerk, removed, the address changed, the date noted, and the card returned to its place. An order in duplicate is made on a special form, giving both the old and new address and the date. This is sent to the mailing department in Baltimore. There, the letter must be opened, the order stamped with the date, the metal plate of stencil removed from its place; a new stencil and plate made; a duplicate impression of the old and new address returned to the Rochester office, where the date is stamped and the impression compared with the original held there. This impression has then to be filed alphabetically in the state last named, for future reference, should a complaint be made that the JOURNAL is not being received. At least six or seven people have a hand in this procedure. One slip, and the whole process has to be done over again, or, if errors are not detected in the final comparison the JOURNAL may never reach the subscriber. Each move must be made carefully and consumes more time than one would suppose.

We suggest that when a subscriber is to be away for only two or three months that she arrange with her postman to forward her JOURNAL with other mail, leaving postage (3 cents for each copy) with him, or, if that is not convenient, that she send stamps to her postmaster each month with the request that her JOURNAL be forwarded. The postal law requires that postmasters shall notify the publisher by special card when for any reason, a journal cannot be delivered. Often such cards contain notice of a change of address which the subscriber has failed to send to the JOURNAL office. So many times it has been shown that the change is only temporary and we have found it inadvisable to accept such notification from the postmaster until verified by the subscriber. Many times the request for change does not give the old address and lacks either street, city and state, and identification is made possible only by the good memory of some member of the mailing department, or the personal knowledge of the individual by some member of the JOURNAL staff. This kind of identification consumes a great deal of valuable time.

Every month we receive many complaints of the non-receipt of JOURNALS which, upon investigation, are found to be correctly entered both in the subscription files at Rochester and on the mailing list at the publishers. The fault is then either with the postoffice department or at the place of delivery. When a JOURNAL fails to be received, investigation should be made at home, later with the postman. The Rochester office should be notified at once. Many of our subscribers wait two or

three, or even nine months before notifying us that they are not receiving their JOURNALS, and expect to have the back numbers supplied. This is unbusinesslike and unreasonable. We make good every loss due to error in the JOURNAL office, but we must ask our subscribers to do their part in notifying us not later than the 20th of the month of the failure to receive their JOURNALS.

Unless notification of change of address reaches the Rochester office before the 15th of the month preceding the date of issue, the next number of the JOURNAL will be sent to the old address and must be taken care of by the subscriber.

#### CENTRAL DIRECTORIES AND THE MIDDLE CLASS

The Central Registry for Nurses of the New York County Registered Nurses' Association has established an hourly nursing service for people of moderate means with the hope of thus providing efficient nursing for the great middle class. The prices are to range between the charges made by regular hourly nurses and those of the settlement nurses. This is an experiment which will be watched by central registries in many places and if it proves to be successful it will undoubtedly be followed elsewhere.

#### CLEAN ADVERTISING

The Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis, at a meeting in April gave much consideration to the question of the elimination of medical frauds. Special emphasis was laid upon the need of forcing out of business the venereal quack. It was shown that this particular kind of quack depends almost entirely on newspaper advertising and that if the daily press should discontinue his advertisement he would be forced out of business. Progress along these lines is reported showing that in a number of cities leading dailies are closing their pages to this kind of advertising.

The Associated Advertising Clubs, of America, at a recent meeting held in Toronto, devoted a number of sessions to the consideration of clean advertising and honest methods. We know of no greater influence for the elimination of quackery and fraud than this proposed cleaning up of the advertising pages of the common daily and the cheaper grades of magazines. In fact, until this has been accomplished, all other efforts are of little avail as such publications reach the rank and file of people of moderate means and of the lower classes, who, through their ignorance, become easy victims of the unscrupulous doctor and drug manufacturer.

## THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION AT BERNE

The Swiss National Exhibition at Berne, May 15 to October 15, includes among other things, a Hygiene and Red Cross section of great interest. Various Tourist Associations are exhibiting the development of health resorts and thermal springs. A hygiene exhibit, conducted by some Swiss hospitals, shows a contrast of an old monastic medicine chest and a modern hospital dispensary. The Swiss Health Office demonstrates its method of testing food and of inspecting slaughter houses. The Red Cross exhibit is a genealogical tree, showing the development of the Association from its small beginning in Geneva in 1863. A number of other conventions will be held contemporaneously with the National Exhibition, one of which will be the Congress of the Swiss Society of Neurology, Psychiatry and Psychology, from September 7 to 12.

COMMITTEE ON CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
NURSES' ASSOCIATION

The pioneers in the organization of our national societies had, from the very beginning, a plan for the centralization of the nursing interests of the country, a place where the American Nurses' Association should have its headquarters and, grouped about it, the offices of the League of Nursing Education, the JOURNAL, and such other organizations or educational affiliations as might develop. That such headquarters would be costly and that organization must have reached such a point that it would practically include the whole country, has delayed any attempt at the realization of this dream. Many of those who first formulated such plans are no longer active or have passed over to the Great Majority.

At the meeting in St. Louis a committee was appointed to consider plans for such centralization with Mary C. Wheeler of the Illinois Training School as chairman, the other members being Ella Philipps Crandall, field secretary of the Public Health Nurses, and Martha Russel of New York City. The committee will first have to determine the section of the country in which the greatest advantage to the greatest number will be obtained and whether educational or geographical facilities are the more important.

This is perhaps the greatest of all undertakings which the national organization has attempted.